

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the
Swanage Town Council held at the Town Hall,
Swanage on **MONDAY, 8th APRIL 2013** at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor W.S. Trite (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor M. Bonfield
Councillor I. Brown
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh
Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick
Councillor S. Poultney
Councillor M.W. Pratt
Councillor G.M. Suttle
Councillor M. Whitwam
Councillor A. Wiggins

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 14 members of the public attended the Meeting.

The Mayor welcomed Revd. Andrew Corke, who offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

The Mayor then welcomed Inspector Tracey Baker and Inspector Fiona Gaffney from Dorset Police, and Mr. Richard Drax MP.

Inspector Baker reported on an incident that had occurred on New Years Eve 2012, which had resulted in a young person sustaining a serious head injury. Ryan Hulcoop had alerted the emergency services, and put his friend in the recovery position whilst waiting for medical help to arrive, and also administered first aid to another young person who had been injured. It was considered that his responsible action saved the life of the victim, and, in recognition of this, Inspector Baker presented Ryan with the ‘Dorset Police Teenage Award Scheme Certificate’ on behalf of Dorset Police.

Inspector Gaffney reported that she would be covering the Swanage area for Dorset Police for a six month period whilst Inspector Baker was undertaking duties in the Boscombe area of Bournemouth.

Councillor Trite opened the Council Meeting at 7.20 p.m.

148. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Bartlett and Miss Harris.

149. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare their interest under the Code of Conduct as defined by regulations made under section 30 (3) of the Localism Act 2011.

Agenda Item No. 14 (a) – Councillor Whitwam declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a director of Swanage Railway Company.

Agenda Item No. 14 (a) – The Town Mayor declared a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct by reason of being a member of the Swanage Railway Trust.

150. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 4th March 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Wiggins, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 18th March 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed.

151. **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Brown, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 4th March 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed.

152. **GENERAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Brown, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the General Operations Committee held on 6th March 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed.

153. **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Performance Management Committee held on 28th March 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed.

154. **PLANS**

Councillor Mrs. Marsh did not vote on, or propose, or second any of the motions on the following planning applications, by reason of being a Member of the Purbeck District Council's Planning Board.

Non- Delegated Applications

6/2013/0150 **Welfare Dwellings Residential Care Ltd.**

O/A – Demolition of existing house. Outline application for a residential development of 52 units (50/50 mix market and affordable housing) with access via Northbrook Road.

Former Grammar School Site/Purbeck Centre, Northbrook Road, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: Recommend refusal. This site is outside of the settlement boundary and this application is premature pending the allocation of sites for settlement extensions through the Swanage Local Plan. Previous applications have included proposals to retain the former Grammar School for community use, a subject on which this application is silent.

Delegated Applications

6/2013/0148 **Dorset County Council**
Proposed Kiosk.
Durlston Country Park, Lighthouse Road, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No objection.

6/2013/0151 **Pier View Flats (Swanage) Ltd.**
LISTED Repair slate roof and chimneys as necessary.
Pier View Flats, Seymer Road, Swanage.
OBSERVATION: No objection.

155. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- (a) The Mayor referred to the sad death of Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the former Prime Minister who had changed the political landscape of the country.
- (b) The Mayor reported that, based on representations received, the Town Council had formulated a response to the Phase Three Consultation on the proposed Navitus Bay Wind Park. Copies of the Council's response were available from the Town Hall.
- (c) The Mayor had attended the following events during the past month:-
- Volunteer of the Year Award, at Purbeck District Council, at which the sterling work undertaken by Mr. Eddie Rainford had been acknowledged.
 - Swanage Town Twinning Association – Open Evening.
 - 90th birthday celebrations for Mrs. Tower at the Isle of Purbeck Golf Club.
 - Visit to Mercers' Hall in London at the invitation of the Master Mercer.
 - Barns' Evening organised by Mr. Andrew Fleming, Town Crier.
 - Annual General Meeting of the Swanage Hospitality Association at Harrow House.
 - The Annual Parish Meeting held at The Mowlem which had been attended by approximately 50 residents.
 - Special train running on the newly-restored track between Wareham and Swanage.

156. **NORTH BEACH LANDSLIP**

Further to Minute No. 134 (c) of the Council meeting held on 4th February 2013, and a meeting held on 5th April 2013 with representatives from Purbeck District Council, Dorset County Council and the Environment Agency, Councillor Brown updated those present on matters relating to the landslip at North Beach.

157. **PEVERIL POINT – PARKING FOR NATIONAL COASTWATCH**

Further to Minute No. 6 of the Council meeting held on 18th March 2013, and a subsequent site meeting with National Coastwatch representatives, consideration was again given to a request received for two 'Disabled' parking spaces to be made

available adjacent to the fence line round the Lookout building for use by Coastwatch duty staff.

During the ensuing discussion, concerns were raised regarding cliff erosion, the stability of the land in this area and the proximity of vehicles to the cliff edge.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Bonfield, and RESOLVED with ONE ABSTENTION:-

That the existing gate be re-located to enable the provision of two additional parking spaces within the gated access for use by Coastwatch duty staff with restricted mobility.

In agreeing the above, Members acknowledged the importance of displaying appropriate signage.

158. **PURBECK ARTS WEEKS 2013 – COMMUNITY TREE PROJECT**

Further to Minute No. 8 of the Council meeting held on 18th March 2013, and a subsequent meeting with representatives from Purbeck Arts Weeks, it was reported that amendments had been made to the design of the proposed community tree, which would enable it to be mounted in front of the wall on the former shelter site on Shore Road. It was also noted that Purbeck Arts Weeks would be willing to contribute towards the upkeep of the community tree for a period of three years.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by the Town Mayor, and RESOLVED with ONE ABSTENTION:-

That permission be granted for the creation of a ceramic tree on the former shelter site on Shore Road for a period of three years.

It was FURTHER AGREED:-

That the condition of the ceramic tree be monitored and the structure removed at the end of the three year period, if necessary.

159. **SWANAGE LOCAL PLAN**

The Clerk outlined the opportunity for Members to participate in Working Groups in order to progress the compilation of the Swanage Local Plan.

Details of the format of Options Workshops – Spring 2013 had been circulated to all Members, for information.

160. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

- (a) Councillor Whitwam reported that he had attended the monthly meeting of Pub Watch on 20th March 2013. Inspector Fiona Gaffney, Dorset Police, had been present at the meeting, at which it was reported that four volunteers had been recruited to monitor the CCTV system.
- (b) Councillor Mrs. Patrick reported that concerns had been expressed regarding the use of the 101 emergency telephone number for non-emergency calls to the Dorset Ambulance Service.
- (c) Councillor Mrs. Patrick reported that she had attended the Annual General Meeting of Neighbourhood Watch, and also reported on issues relating to the taxi services operating in the Lower High Street.

161. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

There were no delegated matters to report at the present time.

162. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND MATTERS FOR FORTHCOMING AGENDAS**

Items of Information

- (a) **Footpath – Burlington Road to Ballard Estate** – Determination – not a public footpath.
- (b) **Street Lights** – Switching-off of the street lights between midnight and 5.00 a.m. to be phased in commencing 8th April 2013. Public urged to report areas of particular concern i.e. fear of crime/dangerous.
- (c) **Condition of Roads** – Dorset County Council to commence remedial works to Victoria Avenue within the next two weeks.
- (d) **RNLI** – Request to present plans for new boathouse to Town Council prior to submitting a formal planning application to Purbeck District Council.

163. **SEAFRONT STABILISATION SCHEME**

The Clerk updated those present on a meeting held with planning officers at Purbeck District Council prior to submitting a formal planning application in respect of the seafront stabilisation scheme.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, under Standing Orders Nos. 67 and 68, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following matter.

164. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Lease – Swanage Railway**

Further to his declaration of interest under Minute No. 2, the Town Mayor relinquished the Chair and left the Meeting during consideration of the following item.

Further to his declaration of interest under Minute No. 2, Councillor Whitwam also left the Meeting during consideration of the following item.

Councillor Mrs. Patrick assumed the Chair.

Further to Minute No. 13 (b) of the Council meeting held on 18th February 2013, the Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the draft Heads of Terms of the lease for Swanage Station and associated land and buildings with Swanage Railway.

He then referred to the request for landlord's consent for the removal of a number of saplings to enable construction of a platform opposite the main station buildings to facilitate the relocation of the Birds Nest catering coach, and reported that the Swanage Railway Company was eager to progress this matter.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, and RESOLVED:-

That the Council grants permission for the removal of saplings and other related site works, but that it otherwise adheres to its previous decision that the question of relocating the Birds Nest Cafe be further considered following conclusion of negotiations of all Heads of Terms.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.